THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND,

Conveen'd at *Edinburgh* the 11. Day of *May*, 1738.

Collected and Extracted from the Records, by the Clerk thereof

EDINBURGH:
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Begun at *Edinburgh*, upon *Thursday* the 11th Day of *May* 1738, and concluded the 23d Day of the said Month and Year.

I.

The King's Commission to William *Marquis of* Lothian *produced, and ordered to be recorded.*

At Edinburgh, *11th* May, 1738, Sess. 1.

THE General Assembly of this National Church being conveened and constituted, there was produced to them by the Most Honourable *William* Marquis of *Lothian*, His Majesty's Commission, sealed with the Seal appointed by the Treaty of Union to be kept and used in *Scotland*, in Place of the Great Seal of *Scotland*, making and constituting him His Majesty's High Commissioner and Representative in this Assembly, of the same Tenor with the Commissions granted to his Lordship in the Years 1732, 1733, 1734, 1735, 1736 and 1737. Which Commission being publickly read with all due Honour and Respect, was appointed to be recorded in the Books of Assembly.

II.

The King's most Gracious Letter to the General Assembly, presented to them by His Majesty's Commissioner.

Edinburgh, May 14th, 1738, Sess. 1.

GEORGE R.

RIGHT Reverend and Well-beloved, We greet you well. Being perſuaded that you come together with the ſame good Diſpoſitions, which we have experienced in your former Aſſemblies, to promote, as much as in you lies, Religion and Piety, and the true Intereſt of the Church, of which you are Members: Being alſo well ſatisfied of your Loyalty and Affection for Our Perſon and Government, and of your Zeal for the Good of your Country, We very willingly countenance your preſent Meeting with Our Approbation and Royal Authority, aſſuring you of Our fixt Reſolution to maintain the Church of *Scotland*, as eſtabliſhed by Law, in the full Enjoyment of all its juſt Rights and Privileges.

The great and deſireable Ends for which you are now aſſembled, being chiefly to conſult upon proper Meaſures for ſecuring the Peace and Welfare of the Church, the Advancement of Piety and Virtue, the ſuppreſſing of Vice and Immorality, and the preventing the Growth of Popery, you may be aſſured of Our Support and Concurrence in whatever may moſt effectually conduce thereto: And as the Succeſs of your Endeavours for theſe good Purpoſes, will, under GOD, in a great Meaſure depend upon the Wiſdom and Unanimity of your Councils, We muſt earneſtly recommend it to you, to preſerve in all your Debates that Moderation, brotherly Love and Charity, which are becoming ſo venerable an Aſſembly, and which will further entitle you to Our Royal Favour.

We have again appointed Our Right Truſty and entirely beloved Couſin *William* Marquis of *Lothian* to repreſent Our Royal Perſon in your Aſſembly, not doubting but his known Zeal for Our Service, and his affectionate Concern for the Proſperity of the Church of *Scotland*, will make Our Choice of him very acceptable to you, and that he will have your moſt hearty and chearful Aſſiſt-

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ance in bringing this your Meeting to a happy Conclusion. And so we bid you heartily farewell. Given at our Court at St. *James's* the Third Day of *May*, 1738, in the Eleventh Year of our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command,

HOLIES NEWCASTLE.

Directed thus:

To the Right Reverend and Well-beloved, The Moderator, Ministers and Elders of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY *of the Church of* Scotland.

III.

The General Assembly's Answer to the King's Most Gracious Letter.

Edinburgh, May 13*th* 1738, *Sess.* 3.

May it please your Majesty,

THE General Assembly of this Church have with great Pleasure received Your Majesty's most Gracious Letter.

We hope we are come together with the same good Dispositions, which Your Majesty has experienced in our former Assemblies, to promote as much as in us lies, Religion and Piety, and the true Interest of the Church, of which we are Members.

Your Majesty having declared, that you are well satisfied of our Loyalty and Affection for Your Person and Government, and of our Zeal for the Good of our Country, and therefore, that you very willingly countenance our present Meeting with Your Approbation and Royal Authority, assuring us of Your fixt Resolution, to maintain the Church of *Scotland*, as established by Law, in the full Enjoyment of all its just Rights and Privileges, gives us the greatest Satisfaction, and lays us under the strongest Obligations to continue in the same good Disposition towards Your Majesty's Royal Person, Family and Govern-

ment, and the Good of our Country, which we look upon as our Intereſt, as well as our Duty; and alſo, to the utmoſt of our Power, to promote the ſame good Diſpoſition among Your Majeſty's Subjects under our Care.

We are ſenſible that the great and deſirable Ends, for which we are now aſſembled, are chiefly to conſult upon proper Meaſures for ſecuring the Peace and Welfare of the Church, the Advancement of Piety and Virtue, the ſuppreſſing of Vice and Immorality, and the preventing the Growth of Popery: And it gives us great Encouragement to purſue theſe valuable Ends, that Your Majeſty is pleaſed to aſſure us of Your Royal Support and Concurrence in whatever may moſt effectually conduce thereto.

As the Succeſs of our Endeavours for theſe good Purpoſes will, under GOD, in a great Meaſure, depend upon the Wiſdom and Unanimity of our Councils, we will ſtudy, thro' Divine Aſſiſtance, to preſerve in all our Debates that Moderation and brotherly Love and Charity, which Your Majeſty ſo juſtly recommends to us, and are becoming ſuch an Aſſembly.

The known Zeal of the Marquis of *Lothian* for Your Majeſty's Service, and his affectionate Concern for the Proſperity of the Church of *Scotland*, makes Your Choice of him to repreſent Your Royal Perſon in our Aſſembly, very acceptable to us, and obliges us to give him our moſt hearty and chearful Aſſiſtance, in bringing this our Meeting to a happy Concluſion.

Your Majeſty's High Commiſſioner hath acquainted us, that Your Majeſty has been graciouſly pleaſed to renew Your charitable Donation for the Reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands, which we look upon as a freſh Inſtance of Your Majeſty's tender Concern for the Spiritual as well as the Temporal Good of Your Subjects: As this Royal Bounty has formerly produced, and ſtill continues to produce very good Effects, ſo it ſhall be our Care to beſtow the ſame in an exact Conformity to Your Royal Intentions, that the Fruits of it may more and more appear to Your Majeſty's Satisfaction.

That the Lord may eminently bleſs, and plentifully reward Your Majeſty, for the many great Favours, which, as a Nurſing Father, You are pleaſed to ſhew to this Church: That he may long preſerve You to maintain the Proteſtant Intereſt: That he may bleſs and preſerve their Royal Highneſſes the Prince and Princeſs of *Wales*, the Duke and Princeſſes, and all your Royal Family: That he may graciouſly direct Your Majeſty's Councils: And that after a long and happy Reign over an obedient and

affectionate

affectionate People, You may be crowned with Glory and Immortality; And that your earthly Crown may descend to Successors of Your Royal Line to latest Posterity; Are, and shall be the sincere and hearty Prayers of,

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful, most obedient, and most loyal Subjects,

The Ministers and Elders met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our Name, in our Presence, and at our Appointment, by

JAMES RAMSAY, *Moderator.*

IV.

Act concerning the Ministers seceding from this Church.

Edinburgh, May 17, 1738. *Sess.* 6.

THE General Assembly taking to their serious Consideration the Representations and Complaints laid before them, concerning Masters *Ebenezer Erskine* at *Stirling*, *William Wilson* at *Perth*, *Alexander Moncrief* at *Abernethy*, and *James Fisher* at *Kinclaven*, within the Bounds of the Synod of *Perth* and *Stirling*; also concerning Masters *Ralph Erskine* at *Dumfermling*, *Thomas Mair* at *Orwald*, and *Thomas Nairn* at *Abbotshall*, within the Bounds of the Synod of *Fife*, Ministers ordained in this National Church, and admitted to their respective Charges by the Judicatures thereof, who have notwithstanding *seceded* from the Communion of this Church, and made a positive Separation therefrom: AND THE Assembly having too good Reason to believe, from these Representations, the Notoriety of Facts, and from the personal Knowledge of many of the Members of this Assembly, THAT the said Ministers have seceded from this Church, without any justifiable Grounds,

and are *continuing* in their unwarrantable Seceſſion, notwithſtanding their own ſolemn Engagements to the contrary at their Ordination and Admiſſion, the Clemency ſhewed to ſome of them in the Year One thouſand ſeven hundred and thirty four, and the Tenderneſs to all of them ever ſince: That albeit their Parochial Charges are diſcontiguous, and at a conſiderable Diſtance from one another, yet they have aſſumed a Power of aſſociating and erecting themſelves into a Presbytery, and of exerciſing a judicial-presbyterial Power, not only over their own Congregations, but alſo over the whole Church; a Power to which never any Presbytery duly conſtituted in this Church, could, or did lay Claim: That as a Presbytery, and in a pretended judicative Capacity, they have framed, and publiſhed to the World, a printed Paper, called their *Act, Declaration and Teſtimony*; and have emitted other Papers, wherein they have pretended not only to aſſign the Grounds of their own unreaſonable and irregular Conduct, but alſo, with the Air of a paramount Power and Authority, to condemn this Church and the Judicatures thereof, for their Proceedings, and to caſt many groundleſs and calumnious Reflections upon her and them: That not confining themſelves to their own Congregations and particular Charges, they diſpenſe the Ordinances to Perſons of other Congregations, without the Knowledge and Conſent of the Miniſters to which they belong, and have taken upon them in ſome of theſe Congregations to ordain Elders: And to promote their dangerous Schiſm, they not only receive at their Presbyterial Meetings, ſuch Perſons of whatſoever Character as will accede to them from other Congregations, but alſo the Reaſons of their Acceſſion, containing injurious Calumnies againſt this Church and the Miniſters thereof: And that nothing may be wanting to promote their End, they appoint and keep Faſts in different Corners of the Country, to which there is a Reſort of ſeveral Thouſands of Perſons of both Sexes, and too many of them, as there is good Ground to think, come there with other Views than to promote Religion; and by theſe Practices their proper miniſterial Work, in their own Pariſhes, is in a great Meaſure neglected. And that their Schiſm may not die with themſelves, that they have authoriſed one of their Number to teach Divinity, and have taken ſome Perſons under Probationary Trials for the Miniſtry; THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DID, and hereby do unanimouſly reſolve, declare and enact, That altho', upon theſe and other ſuch Accounts, this Church might now proceed in the due Exerciſe

ercise of Discipline, to appoint these seceding and separating Brethren, and their Followers, to be proceeded against, and censured according to the Demerit of their Faults; Yet this Assembly, chusing rather still to treat them in the Spirit of Meekness, brotherly Love and Forbearance, did, and hereby do enjoin all the Ministers of this National Church, as they shall have Access, and especially the Ministers of the Synods and Presbyteries within which these seceding Brethren reside, to be at all Pains, by Conference and other gentle Means of Persuasion, to reclaim and reduce them to their Duty and the Communion of this Church, and all Presbyteries and Synods to report their Diligence and Success, and what they can learn or observe, concerning the future Behaviour of these Brethren, to the Commission to be appointed by this Assembly, at any of the Diets thereof: WHICH COMMISSION is hereby authorised and appointed to take such Reports or Representations, with these already made to this Assembly, under their Consideration; and, if they shall see Cause, to take all proper Steps and Methods for duly sisting the separating Brethren above named before the next Assembly, to answer for their irregular Conduct, and all the Parts thereof: And the said Commission is also impowered to do what they shall think proper, to prepare and ripen the Case for the Decision of that Assembly; AND IN THE MEAN TIME the General Assembly earnestly recommends to all the Ministers, Elders and Members of this Church, to endeavour in their respective Stations, and by all Means proper for them, to reclaim these poor deluded People who have been carried away by this Division, and to prevent the seducing of others, and the Increase of this Schism, which is so dangerous to the Peace of this Church, so contrary to the Spirit of the Gospel, so very hurtful to Religion and serious Godliness, to Christian Charity and brotherly Love.

V.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders for discussing Affairs referred to them.

Edinburgh, May 23, 1738, Sess. ult.

THE General Assembly taking to their Consideration, that there are divers Affairs which they cannot overtake, do hereby nominate, commissionate and appoint the Reverend Mr. *James Ramsay* Minister at Kelso their Moderator; And from the Presbytery of Kirkcudbright, Mr. *James Rowan* at Parton, Mr. *John Lamont* at Kelton, Mr. *Robert Thomson* at Girthon, Ministers; Sir *Thomas Gordon* of Earlston, Baronet, Mr. *Thomas Mirrie* Provost for the Burgh of Kirkcudbright, and Mr. *David Newal* of Knockbreak for the Burgh of New-galloway, Ruling Elders. From the Presbytery of Wigton, Mr. *William Campbell* at Kirkinder, Mr. *John M'Aul* at Whithorn, Ministers; *William Hannay* of Kirkdale, *John Carson* for the Burgh of Wigton, and *Hugh Hathorn* Merchant for the Burgh of Whithorn, Ruling Elders. From the Presbytery of Stranrawer, Mr. *Walter Lawrie* at Stranrawer, Mr. *Archibald Marshall* at Kirkcolm, Ministers; Mr. *Andrew M'Dowal* Advocate, and Mr. *Hugh Murray-Kinnynmund* of Melgum for the Burgh of Stranrawer, Ruling Elders. From the Presbytery of Air, Mr. *John Hunter* at Air, Mr. *William Coats* at Damellingtoun, Mr. *Thomas Walker* at Dundonald, Mr. *David Couper* at Affleck, Mr. *Richard Cunningham* at Symington, Ministers; Colonel *William Dalrymple* of Glenmore, Mr. *Alexander Bosewal* of Affleck, younger, and *John Cunningham* of Enterkine for the Burgh of Air, Ruling Elders. From the Presbytery of Irvine, Mr. *William Reid* at Stevenson, Mr. *James Semple* at Dreghorn, Mr. *William Leechman* at Beith, Ministers; the Right Honourable *John* Earl of Glasgow, and Mr. *Hugh Baillie* of Monktoun for the Burgh of Irvine, Ruling Elders. From the Presbytery of Paisley, Mr. *David Turner* at Greenock, Mr. *David Brown* at Port-glasgow, Mr. *Henry Millar* at Neilston, Ministers; Sir *John Maxwell* of Pollock, Baronet, and *John Somervel* Baillie for the Burgh of Renfrew, Ruling Elders. From the Presbytery of Hamilton, Mr. *Matthew Connel* at Kilbride,

bride, Mr. *William Hamilton* at Bothwell, Mr. *Robert Hamilton* at Hamilton, Miniſters; *William Hamilton* of Wiſhaw, Ruling Elder. From the Preſbytery of Lanark, Mr. *John Orr* at Lanark, Mr. *Patrick Scot* at Carnwath, Mr. *Andrew Orr* at Carluke, Miniſters; Mr. *Archibald Denhame* of Weſt-Shield, Advocate, Ruling Elder. From the Preſbytery of Glaſgow, Mr. *John Hamilton* at Barony-Kirk, Mr. *Alexander Maxwell* at Rutherglen, Mr. *John Anderſon* at Glaſgow, Miniſters; Baillie *White* of Rutherglen, Mr. *James Bogle* Remembrancer in Exchequer for the Burgh of Rutherglen, *John Wardrop* Conveener of the Trades from the Burgh of Glaſgow, Ruling Elders; Mr. *Niel Campbell* Principal of the College of Glaſgow for that Univerſity. From the Preſbytery of Dumbarton, Mr. *James Bain* at Bonhill, Mr. *Archibald Sydeſerf* at Dunbarton, Mr. *John M'Alpin* at Arroquhar, Miniſters; *William Cunningham* of Balindalloch, and Mr. *George Smollet* of Ingliſtoun Advocate, for the Burgh of Dunbarton, Ruling Elders. From the Preſbytery of Dunoon, Mr. *Dugald Stuart* at Rotheſay, Mr. *William Campbell* at Kilmodan, Miniſters; *John Campbell* of Orchard, and *William Stuart* of Hartwood for the Burgh of Rotheſay, Ruling Elders. From the Preſbytery of Kintyre, Mr. *Charles Stuart* at Campbelton, Mr. *Niel Simpſon* at Gigha, Miniſters; Mr. *Alexander M'Millan* of Dunmore, and Mr. *John Campbell* of Succoth Advocate, for the Burgh of Campbeltoun, Ruling Elders. From the Preſbytery of Inverary, Mr. *Patrick Pollock* at South Knapdale, Mr. *Alexander Campbell* at Inverary, Miniſters; *Colin Campbel* Eſquire, one of the Commiſſioners of His Majeſty's Cuſtoms, and *John Campbell* of Lymefield for the Burgh of Inverary, Ruling Elders. From the Preſbytery of Lorn, Mr. *James Stevenſon* at Ardchattan, Mr. *John M'Vean* at Clachandyſart, Miniſters; *James Campbell* of St. Germains, Ruling Elder. From the Preſbytery of Mull, Mr. *Archibald Campbell* at Mervern, Mr. *Lachlan Campbell* at Ardnamurchan, Miniſters; *Charles M'Lean* of Drimna Ruling Elder. From the Preſbytery of Dunkeld, Mr. *John Gow* at Cargill, Mr. *Robert Biſſet* at Blair-Atholl, and Mr. *Robert Robertſon* at Kirkmichael, Mr. *James Stuart* at Killin, Miniſters; His Grace *James* Duke of Atholl, and Mr. *Alexander Murray* Baillie of Athole, Ruling Elders. From the Preſbytery of Perth, Mr. *Peter Pilmore* at Forgandenny, Mr. *Lachlan M'Intoſh* at Errol, Mr. *Thomas Ranken* at Kinnoull, Mr. *John Johnſton* at Arngosk, Miniſters; *William Ferguſſon* of Corſton, *Samuel Petrie* late Baillie of Perth, and *Patrick Cree* late Provoſt of Perth, for that Burgh, Ruling Elders. From the Preſby-

tery of Stirling, Mr. *John Gray* at Dollar, Mr. *James Gordon* at Alloa, Mr. *Henry Lindsay* at Bothkennar, Miniſters; Mr. *Alexander Bruce* of Kennet, and *James Erskine* of Grange, Elq; Advocate, Ruling Elders. From the Presbytery of *Auchterarder*, Mr. *John Drummond* at Crieff, Mr. *Andrew Ure* at Foſſoway, Mr. *James Porteous* at Monyvaird, Miniſters; *David Clow* of Duchally Ruling Elder. From the Presbytery of Dunblane, Mr. *John M'Callum* at Callendar, Mr. *John Smith* at Kincardine, Miniſters; Mr. *George Abercrombie* younger of Tillibody Advocate, Ruling Elder. From the Presbytery of Dumfermline, Mr. *James Wardlaw* at Dumfermline, Mr. *John Geddes* at Culroſs, Mr. *Daniel Hunter* at Carnock, Miniſters; Colonel *John Erskine* of Carnock Ruling Elder. From the Presbytery of Kirkcaldy, Mr. *John Currie* at Kinglaſſie, Mr. *Thomas Melvil* at Scoonie, Mr. *David Marſhall* at Kirkcaldie, Miniſters; *William Charters* Town-clerk of Kirkcaldie, *Robert Hay* Doctor of Medicine for the Burgh of Kirkcaldie, and Mr. *George Irvine* of Newton for the Burgh of Dyſart, Ruling Elders. From the Presbytery of Coupar, Mr. *William Smibert* at Kilmeny, Mr. *Andrew Melvil* at Cults, Mr. *John Ballingal* at Colleſſy, Mr. *Hugh Glaſs* at Kettle, Miniſters; *James M'Gill* of Rankeilor, Mr. *Henry Barclay* of Cullerny, and Mr. *James Leſly* Provoſt for the Burgh of Coupar, Ruling Elders. From the Presbytery of St. Andrews, Mr. *James Nairn* at Anſtruther-Eaſter, Mr. *John M'Cormock* at St. Andrews, Mr. *William Dalgleiſh* at Carnbie, Mr. *John Cook* at St. Monance, Miniſters; Mr. *James Duncan* Profeſſor of Philoſophy in St. Andrews, *John Cunningham* of Pittarchy, Ruling Elders; Mr. *James Haddow* Principal of the New College for the Univerſity of St. Andrews; *James Ferney* late Dean of Guild for the Burgh of St. Andrews, *Andrew Fouler* late Baillie for the Burgh of Pittenweem, *Robert Balfour* Baillie for the Burgh of Craill, *Thomas Nairn* Baillie for the Burgh of Anſtruther-Eaſter, *Alexander Robe* Baillie for the Burgh of Anſtruther-Weſter, *Robert Waddel* Baillie for the Burgh of Kilrenny, Ruling Elders. From the Presbytery of Meegle, Mr. *David Thomſon* at Meegle, Mr. *James Lyon* at Blairgowry, Mr. *David Maxwel* at Eaſſy, Miniſters; *John Murray* of Lintroſe Ruling Elder. From the Presbytery of Forfar, Mr. *John Martin* at Othlay, Mr. *Thomas Brown* at Kinnettles, Miniſters; *John Donaldſon* of Inverrighty Ruling Elder. From the Presbytery of Dundee, Mr. *Thomas Davidſon* at Dundee, Mr. *George Blair* at Abernyte, Mr. *James Miln* at Kinnaird, Miniſters; *An-*

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drew Wardrop Provoſt of Dundee, and *Robert Pitcairn* Writer for the Burgh of Dundee, Ruling Elders. From the Presbytery of Aberbrothwick, Mr. *Henry Ogilvie* at Lunan, Mr. *James Purdie* at Guthrie, Miniſters; *James Doig* late Baillie of Aberbrothwick Ruling Elder. From the Presbytery of Brichen, Mr. *Robert Stephen* at Craig, Mr. *David Ferguſſon* at Farnwall, Mr. *James Muiriſon* at Edzell, Miniſters; *George Muiriſon* Baillie in Montroſe Ruling Elder. From the Presbytery of Fordon, Mr. *David Burn* at Fettereſſo, Mr. *Anthony Dow* at Fettercairn, Mr. *James Douglas* at Arbuthnot, Miniſters; *Robert Stuart* late Provoſt of Aberdeen Ruling Elder, and Mr. *Alexander Arbuthnot* of Knox for the Burgh of Bervie. From the Presbytery of Aberdeen, Mr. *Alexander Shank* at Drumaik, Mr. *Archibald Napier* at Mary-Coulter, Mr. *James Nicolſon* at Banchory, Mr. *Thomas Reid* at Newmachar, Miniſters; *John Robertſon* Provoſt of Aberdeen, and *William Grant* Eſquire, His Majeſty's Sollicitor, Ruling Elders; Mr. *George Chalmers* Principal of the King's College at Aberdeen, Mr. *James Chalmers* Profeſſor of Divinity in the Mariſhal College at Aberdeen, Miniſters. From the Presbytery of Kincardin-Oniel, Mr. *Alexander Garioch* at Midmar, Mr. *John Burnet* at Cluny, Mr. *James Paterſon* at Coull, Miniſters; Sir *Arthur Forbes* of Craigievar, Baronet, Ruling Elder. From the Presbytery of Alford, Mr. *Patrick Coupland* at Tough, Mr. *Theodore Gordon* at Cabrach, Mr. *Alexander Orem* at Cuſhney, Miniſters; Sir *Archibald Grant* of Monymusk, Baronet, Ruling Elder. From the Presbytery of Ellon, Mr. *James Burnet* at Ellon, Mr. *Alexander Howie* at Methlick, Miniſters; *James Dick* Merchant in Bomakeſſie Ruling Elder. From the Presbytery of Garioch, Mr. *Alexander Simpſon* at Monymusk, Mr. *Alexander Turine* at Oyne, Mr. *John Angus* at Culſalmond, Miniſters; Mr. *Hugh Dalrymple* of Drumore one of the Senators of the College of Juſtice, Ruling Elder, *John Sinclair* of Hallforreſt for the Burgh of Kintore, and *Robert Merns* for the Burgh of Inverury. From the Presbytery of Deer, Mr. *William Hay* at Crimond, Mr. *John Brown* at Longſide, Mr. *Thomas Anderſon* at Aberdour, Miniſters; Mr. *Alexander Garden* of Troup Advocate, Ruling Elder. From the Presbytery of Turreff, Mr. *Alexander Forbes* at Forgue, Mr. *William Johnſton* at Montwhiter, Miniſters; Mr. *David Bennerman* Preacher of the Goſpel, Ruling El-

der. From the Presbytery of Fordice, Mr. *Alexander Irvine* at Fordice, Mr. *Andrew Ker* at Rathven, Miniſters; Mr. *Archibald Campbell* Preacher of the Goſpel, Ruling Elder, *William Orr* Baillie for the Burgh of Cullen, and *William Scot* Provoſt for the Burgh of Banff. From the Presbytery of Strathbogie, Mr. *Alexander Chalmers* at Marnock, Mr. *John Scrogie* at Huntly, Miniſters; Mr. *William Duff* of Crombie Advocate, Ruling Elder. From the Presbytery of Aberlour, Mr. *Hugh Grant* at Knockando, Mr. *George Grant* at Boharm, Miniſters; Mr. *Patrick Grant* of Elchies, one of the Senators of the College of Juſtice, Ruling Elder. From the Presbytery of *Abernethy*, Mr. *William Grant* at Abernethy, Mr. *Francis Grant* at Duthill, Miniſters; Mr. *John Grant* Preacher of the Goſpel, Ruling Elder. From the Presbytery of Elgin, Mr. *Alexander Irvine* at Elgin, Mr. *John Gilchriſt* at Urquhart, Miniſters; *Joſeph Brodie* of Milton Ruling Elder. From the Presbytery of Forreſs, Mr. *William Baron* at Ardclath, Mr. *Robert Dunbar* at Dyke, Miniſters; *James Roſe* of Brae Ruling Elder. From the Presbytery of Inverneſs, Mr. *James Leſly* at Moy, Mr. *Archibald Bannatyne* at Dores, Miniſters; *Duncan Forbes* of Colloden, Eſquire, Lord Preſident of the Court of Seſſion, Ruling Elder. From the Presbytery of Chanonry, Mr. *John Wood* at Roſemarkney, Mr. *Alexander Frazer* at Avoch, Miniſters; *Alexander Gordon* of Ardoch, Eſquire, Ruling Elder. From the Presbytery of Tayne, Mr. *Robert Monro* at Kincardine, Mr. *John Balfour* at Nigg, Miniſters; *Donald Roſs* Baillie of Tayne, Ruling Elder. From the Presbytery of Dingwall, Mr. *Alexander Falconer* at Urquhart, Mr. *Murdoch M'Kenzie* at Contane, Miniſters; Mr. *Albert Monro* of Coull Ruling Elder. From the Presbytery of Abertarph, Mr. *William Gordon* at Glenmoriſon, Mr. *John Stuart* at Kilmanivaig, Miniſters; *Lewis Grant* younger of Grant, Ruling Elder. From the Presbytery of Sky, Mr. *Donald M'Queen* at Rumm, Mr. *Hugh M'Donald* at Portree, Miniſters; *William M'Leod* of Eboſt Ruling Elder. From the Presbytery of Long-Iſland, Mr. *John Monro* at Southuiſt, Mr. *Colin M'Kenzie* at Lochs, Miniſters; *Donald M'Niel* of Vatterſay Ruling Elder. From the Presbytery of Gairloch, Mr. *Æneas M'Aulay* at Applecroſs, Mr. *John Beton* at Kintail, Miniſters; *Kenneth M'Kenzie* at Lochcaron Ruling Elder. From the Presbytery of Dornoch, Mr. *Robert*

Kirk

Kirk at Dornoch, Mr. *James Gilchriſt* at Loth, Miniſters. From the Presbytery of Tongue, Mr. *Walter Roſs* at Tongue, Mr. *John Skeldoch* at Farr Miniſters; *George* Lord *Reay* Ruling Elder. From the Presbytery of *Caithneſs*, Mr. *James Ferme* at Wick, Mr. *David Dunbar* at Olrick, Miniſters; Mr. *John Sinclair* of *Murkle* one of the Senators of the College of Juſtice, Ruling Elder, and *John Dunnet* Merchant for the Burgh of Wick. From the Presbytery of Kirkwall, Mr. *John Bannatyne* at South Ronaldſhay, Mr. *Edward Irvine* at Kirkwall, Miniſters; *James* Earl of Morton Ruling Elder, and *James Sutherland* of Windbrick for the Burgh of Kirkwall. From the Presbytery of Cairſton, Mr. *James Weir* at Orphir, Mr. *Alexander Geddes* at Birſay and Harray, Miniſters; *John Hay* of Balbithan, Eſquire, Ruling Elder. From the Presbytery of the North-Iſles, Mr. *Alexander Nisbet* at Shapinſhay, Mr. *James Jamiſon* at Rowſay, Miniſters; *Jerom Denniſon* of Nowtland Ruling Elder. From the Presbytery of Zetland, Mr. *Thomas Hay* at Yell, Mr. *Thomas Waldie* at Lerwick, Miniſters; Captain *James Craigie* Merchant in Lerwick Ruling Elder. From the Presbytery of Edinburgh, Mr. *John Gaudie* Profeſſor of Divinity in the College of Edinburgh, Mr. *John Matthi on* there, Mr. *George Fordice* at Corſtorphine, Mr. *John Spark* at Currie, Mr. *George Wiſhart* at Edinburgh, Mr. *Alexander Webſter* there, Miniſters; Mr. *Charles Erskine* of Edenſhead, Mr. *James Naſmith* of Earlshaugh, *James Mitchelſon* Jeweller in Edinburgh, Ruling Elders; *George Halyburton* one of the Baillies of Edinburgh, *David Mitchel* late Deacon of the Goldſmiths for the City of Edinburgh; Mr. *William Wiſhart* Principal from the Univerſity of Edinburgh, Mr. *Charles Jervey* at Campvere, Miniſter; *Archibald M'Aulay*, Eſquire, Lord Provoſt of Edinburgh, and Conſervator of the Scots Privileges at Campvere. From the Presbytery of Linlithgow, Mr. *John Brown* at Abercorn, Mr. *Robert Spiers* at Linlithgow, Mr. *George Blackwell* at Bathgate, Mr. *John Wilkie* at Uphall, Miniſters; the Lord *Torphichen*, and Mr. *Charles Hope-Wier* of Craigiehall, Mr. *Robert Ramſay* of Black-craig Advocate, from the Burgh of Linlithgow, and *George Dundas* of Dundas for the Burgh of Queenſferry, Ruling Elders. From the Presbytery of Biggar, Mr. *James Wilſon* at Symingtoun, Mr. *John Buchanan* at Covington, Miniſters; *David Dickſon* Writer in Edinburgh, Ruling Elder. From the Presbytery of Peebles, Mr. *Alex-*

ander Walker at Kirkcurd, Mr. *Gilbert Hutchiſon* at Innerliethen, Mr. *Alexander Johnſton* at Lyne, Miniſters; *Alexander Williamſon* of Chappelhill Ruling Elder. From the Presbytery of Dalkeith, Mr. *John Williamſon* at Muſleburgh, Mr. *James Burnet* at Laſswade, Mr. *David Plenderleith* at Ormiſton, Miniſters; Mr. *Robert Dundas* of Arniſton one of the Senators of the College of Juſtice, Ruling Elder. From the Presbytery of Haddington, Mr. *James Wetherſpoon* at Yeſter, Mr. *Andrew Robertſon* at Gladſmuir, Mr. *Robert Blair* at Athelſtaneford, Miniſters, *Charles Brown* of Colſton Ruling Elder; *William Ray* Provoſt from the Burgh of Haddington, Sir *Hugh-Hamilton Dalrymple* from the Burgh of North-Berwick. From the Presbytery of Dunbar, Mr. *David Smith* at Innerwick, Mr. *George Buchannan* at Tyninghame, Miniſters; Mr. *Thomas Hamilton* Advocate, Ruling Elder; Mr. *Alexander Hamilton* of Pancaitland for the Burgh of Dunbar. From the Presbytery of Dunſe, Mr. *William Home* at Fogo, Mr. *William Home* at Polwarth, Miniſters; Mr. *George Buchan* of Cumlage Ruling Elder. From the Presbytery of Chirnſide, Mr. *Henry Veitch* at Swinton, Mr. *Robert Bryden* at Coldingham, Mr. *Richard Bell* at Mordington, Miniſters; *William* Earl of Home Ruling Elder. From the Presbytery of Kelſo, Mr. *Robert Hog* at Roxburgh, Mr. *Robert Home* at Stitchel Miniſters; Mr. *Charles Binning* of Pilmor Advocate, Ruling Elder. From the Presbytery of Jedburgh, Mr. *Robert Bell* at Crealline, Mr. *John Ritchie* at Minto, Mr. *John Oliver* at South-Dean, Miniſters; *William Scot* of Whitchaugh Ruling Elder. From the Presbytery of Earlſtoun, Mr. *James Ker* at Nonthorn, Mr. *James Innes* at Merton, Miniſters; *John Edgar* of Wedderly Ruling Elder; *Francis* Lord Napier for the Burgh of Lauder. From the Presbytery of Selkirk, Mr. *Adam Miln* at Melroſe, Mr. *Robert Riddel* at Lilliesleaf, Miniſters; *Andrew Ker* of Kippilaw Ruling Elder; *Gideon Shaw* of Lawriſton for the Burgh of Selkirk. From the Presbytery of Middlebee, Mr. *Alexander Mickle* at Langholm, Mr. *Alexander Orr* at Hodham, Miniſters; *Adam Eliot* of Arkleton Ruling Elder. From the Presbytery of Lochmaben, Mr. *Robert Jarden* at Lochmaben, Mr. *Gabriel Gulan* at Dryſdale, Mr. *William Forreſter* at St. Mungo, Miniſters; Mr. *William Kirkpatrick* of Eliſland Ruling Elder. From the Presbytery of Penpont, Mr. *John Lawſon* at Cloſeburn, Mr. *John Sandilands* at Sanquhar,

quhar, Miniſters; *Robert M'Gachan* of Dalwhat Ruling Elder; Mr. *Patrick Boyle* Advocate, for the Burgh of Sanquhar. From the Presbytery of Dumfreis, Mr. *John Scot* at Dumfrees, Mr. *William Irvine* at New-abbay Mr. *Thomas Hamilton* at Holywood, Miniſters; *Charles Erskine* of Tinwald, Eſq; His Majeſty's Advocate, and *Joſeph Currie* Writer for the Burgh of Dumfreis, Ruling Elders. The Moſt Honourable *John* Marquis of Tweddale, the Right Honourable *David* Earl of Buchan, *Alexander* Earl of Leven, *Archibald* Earl of Ilay, *James* Lord Cranſton, Sir *Gilbert Eliot* of Minto, Baronet, Mr. *Patrick Campbell* of Monzie, Mr. *Alexander Frazer* of Strichen, three of the Senators of the College of Juſtice; Sir *John Clark* of Pennycook, Baronet, one of the Barons of Exchequer: To be Commiſſioners of this General Aſſembly, to the Effects after-mentioned; with Power to the ſaid Commiſſioners or their Quorum, which is hereby declared to be any Thirty one of the ſaid Commiſſioners, whereof Twenty one are always to be Miniſters, to meet and conveen within the Aſſembly-houſe at *Edinburgh* the firſt free Day after the Diſſolution of this Aſſembly, at Ten of the Clock Forenoon, and afterwards the ſecond *Wedneſdays* of *Auguſt*, *November* and *March* next to come, and oftner, when and where they ſhall think fit and convenient: With Power to the ſaid Commiſſioners to chuſe their own Moderator. And likeways the General Aſſembly fully impowers their ſaid Commiſſioners, or their Quorum above-mentioned, to cognoſce and finally determine, as they ſhall ſee Cauſe, in every Matter referred, or that ſhall be referred to them, by any Act or Order of this Aſſembly, and to do every Thing contained in and conform to the Inſtructions given, or to be given by this Aſſembly; and to advert to the Intereſt of the Church on every Occaſion, that the Church and preſent Eſtabliſhment thereof do not ſuffer or ſuſtain any Prejudice, which they can prevent, as they will be anſwerable. Providing always, That this general Clauſe be not extended to particular Affairs, or Proceſſes before Synods or Presbyteries, that are not of univerſal Concern to, or Influence upon the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, That no private Proceſſes be determined except at the four ſtated Dyets, and what ſhall be determined at one Dyet of the Commiſſion with Relation to private Cauſes, ſhall be unalterable by any other Dyet thereof, and ſhall ſtand and continue in Force till diſapproven by the General Aſſembly. And the General Aſſembly renews the Inſtructions given by the General Aſſembly in the Year 1717. to their Commiſſion, and ap-

points the ſame to ſtand in full Force as Inſtructions to the Commiſſioners before named, and to be obſerved by them in all Points, as if the ſame were ſpecially here inſert; and that they enquire into the publiſhing and ſpreading of Books and Pamphlets, tending towards the promoting of Opinions of whatever Kind, inconſiſtent with our Confeſſion of Faith: And that the Recommenders of ſuch Books or Pamphlets, or the Errors therein contained, whether by Word, Writ, or Print, be called before the ſaid Commiſſion to anſwer for the ſame. And further, the ſaid Commiſſion is hereby impowered to receive any References and Appeals that ſhall be made to them from Synods, in Matters of Doctrine, and ripen ſuch Affairs for the General Aſſembly: Likeways to take care, that the Impreſſions of the Holy Scriptures, the Confeſſion of Faith and Catechiſms, and ſuch Books as are authoriſed by this Church, relating to the Doctrine, Worſhip, Diſcipline and Government thereof, be correct, and give Directions about printing the ſame. And the ſaid Commiſſion are appointed and impowered to keep a Correſpondence with the Committee for Reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands, for ſuppreſſing Popery and Superſtition, and for promoting of the Knowledge of true Religion, and carrying on a Reformation in theſe Parts, and give Aſſiſtance and Concurrence therein; and if need be, to apply to the Government for a proper Remedy and ſpeedy Redreſs. And the ſaid Commiſſioners are hereby ſtrictly prohibited and diſcharged to meddle in any other Matters than what are committed and referred to them as above-mentioned; and in all their Actings they are to proceed according to the Acts and Conſtitutions of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the Prejudice of the ſame: Declaring, That in and for all their Actings they ſhall be accountable to, and cenſurable by the next General Aſſembly, as they ſhall ſee Cauſe: And this Commiſſion is to continue and endure until another Commiſſion be appointed, and Members are required to attend the Diets of the ſaid Commiſſion, and Abſents therfrom ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th Act of the General Aſſembly in the Year 1706. And for the better ſecuring of a Quorum, and Attendance of Members on the Commiſſion, the General Aſſembly prohibits the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, or any other Presbyteries within twelve Miles thereof, to meet any of the Days or Weeks appointed for the Meeting of this Commiſſion; and ſuch of the Members of theſe Presbyteries as are on the Commiſſion, are required all of them to give Attendance on the Dyets thereof; and the Presby-

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teries at a greater Distance, who have four or more Members on the Commission, are to take care that at least two of them attend each Dyet of the same. And the Assembly recommend to their Commission, at their first Meeting, to discuss as many of the Causes and Questions relative to the Settlement of vacant Churches, which are or shall be referred to them by the Assembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, That when any Presbytery or Synod of this Church shall decline to comply with the Sentences of the Commission, or to give the same a full Execution, in that Case the Commission is hereby prohibited to execute the same, by appointing any such correspondent Meetings, as has been the Practice of late, but shall allow the Matter to ly over to the ensuing Assembly, to which such Presbyteries or Synods shall be answerable for such their Conduct; and are hereby appointed to send up with their Commissioners their Reasons for the same. And the Assembly do further impower and direct the said Commission, to make due Application to the King and Parliament for Redress of the Grievance of Patronage, in Case a favourable Opportunity for so doing shall occur during the Subsistence of this Commission.

VI.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands, and for managing his Majesty's Royal Bounty for that End.

Edinburgh, May 23*d*, 1738, *Sess. ult.*

THE General Assembly do hereby nominate, commissionate and appoint the Reverend Masters *James Ramsay* at Kelso their Moderator, *Neil Campbell* Principal of the Colledge of Glasgow, *John Gowdie* Professor of Divinity in the University of Edinburgh, *William Gusthart* at Edinburgh, *John Matthison* there, *Robert Bell* at Crealline, *John Lumisden* Professor of Divinity in the King's College at Aberdeen, His Majesty's Chaplains, *Neil M'Vicar* at West-Kirk His Majesty's Almoner, *William Campbell* at Kirkinder, *John Hunter* at Air, *James Semple* at Dreghorn, *John M'Alpin* at Arrochar,

char, *Patrick Pollock* at South-Knapdale, *Dougal Steuart* at Rotheſay, *John Smith* at Kincardine, *James Gordon* at Alloa, *Lachlan M'Intoſh* at Errol, *James Wardlaw* at Dumfermline, *James Hadow* Principal of the New College of St. Andrews, *Thomas Davidſon* at Dundee, *John Burnet* at Cluny, *George Chalmers* Principal of the King's College at Aberdeen, *Archibald Bannatyne* at Dores, *Alexander Falconar* at Urquhart, *William Gordon* at Glenmoriſon, *Walter Roſs* at Tongue, *John Bannatyne* at South-Ronaldſhay, *David Plenderleith* at Ormiſton, *Robert Riddel* at Lilliesleaf, *John Lawſon* at Cloſburn, *George Fordice* at Corſtorphine, *John Spark* at Curric, *George Wiſhart* at Edinburgh, *Alexander Webſter* there, *Samuel Semple* at Libbertoun, *John Shaw* at South-Leith, *James Stevenſon* there, *George Lindſay* at North-Leith, *James Walker* at Canongate, *John Walker* there, *James Nisbet* at Edinburgh, *Patrick* Cumming there, *John Guthrie* at Ratho, *David M'Colm* at Duddingſton, *George Logan* at Edinburgh, *James Bannatyne* there, *Mathew Wood* there, *William Robertſon* there, *John Hepburn* there, *Robert Kinloch* there, *John Glen* there, *William Wiſhart* Principal of the College of Edinburgh, *Thomas Pitcairn* at Weſt-Kirk, *Robert Wallace* at Edinburgh, *Robert Hamilton* there, *Gilbert Hamilton* at Cramond, and *James Glaſgow* at Edinburgh Caſtle, Miniſters: His Grace *James* Duke of Atholl, the Moſt Honourable *John* Marquis of Tweddale, the Right Honourable *James* Earl of Morton, *Alexander* Earl of Leven, *John* Earl of Glaſgow, *Archibald* Earl of Ilay, *George* Lord Reay, *Duncan Forbes* of Colloden, Eſq; Lord Preſident of the Seſſion, *Charles Erskine* of Tinwald Eſq; His Majeſty's Advocate, Lord *Drumore*, Lord *Monzie*, Lord *Elchies*, Lord *Arniſton*, Baron *Clark*, *Archibald M'Aulay* Eſquire, Lord Provoſt of Edinburgh, the Honourable *James Erskine* of Grange Eſquire, Advocate, *Patrick Boyle* Eſquire, Advocate, *Charles Hope-Weir* of Craigiehall Eſquire, Colonel *John Erskine* of Carnock, *Charles Erskine* of Edenſhead Eſquire, Sir *Robert Monro* of Foulis Baronet, Sir *James Campbell* of Aberuchle Baronet, Sir *James Campbell* of Ardkinglaſs Baronet, Sir *Thomas Gordon* of Earlſtoun Baronet, *William Grant* Eſquire, His Majeſty's Sollicitor, *George Halyburton* Baillie in Edinburgh, *Albert Monro* of Coull Eſquire, *Alexander Bruce* of Kennet Eſquire, *George Drummond* Eſquire, late Lord Provoſt of Edinburgh, *Thomas Dundas* of Fingask, Eſquire, *Charles Hope* and *Hugh Hathorn* late Baillies in Edinburgh, *James Baillie* of Hardington, *Alexander Gordon* of Ardoch

doch Esq; *George Buchan* of Cumlage, Doctor *John Riddel* Physician, Mr. *Thomas Rigg* of Mortoun Advocate, *James Nimmo* late Dean of Guild of Edinburgh, *Robert Hepburn* of Baads, *Alexander Mitchel* of Mitchel, *William Hall* of Whitehall, *James Davidson* of Halltree, *John Forrest* Merchant in Edinburgh, *Alexander Nisbet* of Northfield, *John Paton* Bookseller in Edinburgh, *Andrew Gardner* Merchant there, *William Cunningham* of Balindalloch, *James Mitchel* Jeweller in Edinburgh, and *Nicol Spence* Agent for the Church of Scotland: To be a Committee of this Assembly for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands of *Scotland*, for promoting the Knowledge of true Religion, suppressing of Popery, Superstition and Profanity, and for Management of the Royal Bounty given for that End, according to, and in Terms of His Majesty's Grant to this Assembly, and the sixth Act of the late General Assembly, and whole Acts therein mentioned, and in former Commissions to the said Committee, any seven of the foresaid Persons are declared to be a Quorum, whereof some to be Ministers; and the said Committee to have their Meetings in the Hall of the Society in *Scotland* for propagating Christian Knowledge, the last *Thursday* of every Month, at Three Afternoon; and also the first lawful Day after Adjournment of the four stated Dyets of the Commission of this Assembly, at Ten of the Clock Forenoon, except when it falls to be on *Friday* or *Saturday*, and then the Meeting is to be on *Monday* next thereafter, with Power to adjourn themselves to such Times and Places as they shall find needful, and to keep a Correspondence with the Commission of this Assembly, and Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, and their Committee. And the General Assembly do hereby nominate and appoint Mr. *William Grant* Advocate, Procurator for the Church, to be Receiver of the forsaid Royal Bounty, and to pay out the same as he shall be directed and ordered by the foresaid Commitee, and according to their Rules. And it is recommended to the Members of the said Committee, especially these who reside in or near *Edinburgh*, to attend the Dyets thereof punctually; and the Clerk is hereby ordered to mark their Attendance, and present the Roll to the next General Assembly with the Excuses of Absents.

VII.

Act about the Manner of electing Members of the General Aſſembly.

Edinburgh, May 23, 1738, *Seſſ. ult.*

THE General Aſſembly, for the more regular Election of Members of Aſſembly in Time coming, conſidering, that it is already provided, that the Election ſhall be made at leaſt forty Days before the Meeting of the Aſſembly, do hereby further Enact, That hereafter each Presbytery of this Church (except theſe lying in Northern or Weſtern Iſles) ſhall make their Elections yearly, within a Month preceeding the firſt of the ſaid forty Days; and that every Presbytery, without Exception, ſhall appoint the Day of Election by an Order of the Presbytery, at an ordinary Meeting, to be entered in their Minutes at leaſt ten free Days before ſuch Election; and that on the Day of Election, the Presbytery ſhall make their Elections betwixt the Hours of One and Eight in the Afternoon; and that the Burghs and Univerſities, who ſend Members to the Aſſembly, ſhall in like manner appoint the Days of their Elections, at an ordinary Meeting of their Council or Univerſity reſpectively, at leaſt ten Days before the Day of ſuch Elections.

VIII.

Act appointing the Dyet of the next General Assembly.

Edinburgh, May 23, 1738. *Sess. ult.*

THE next General Assembly of this National Church is appointed to be held in this Place upon the second *Thursday* of *May* next, in the Year One thousand seven hundred and thirty nine.

The General Assembly was concluded with Prayer and singing the CXXXIII. *Psalm throughout, and pronouncing the Blessing.*

Collected and Extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by

WILLIAM GRANT, *Cls. Eccl. Scot*

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OF THE

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